Completion of Grid Station at Banka

†1472. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted permission for setting up of a Grid in Banka district of Bihar;

(b) whether Government are aware that land for the Grid station has been acquired in Banka and initial work on Grid had started;

(c) whether Government are also aware that work on Grid station is incomplete;

(d) by when Government would get Grid station completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The Bihar State Electricity Board has confirmed that a sub-station at Banka has been sanctioned and that land for the sub-station has been acquired and the preliminary work has commenced. Work of the sub-station could not be completed owing to paucity of funds and also due to the submergence of the selected site in the floods of 1995-96. The Bihar State Electricity Board confirmed that an alternative site is under consideration and the Board is also undertaking negotiations for completion of the sub-station and connected transmission work.

Directions of DVB

1473. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have pulled up DVB for its poor performance on all fronts and asked the Delhi Government to take immediate steps for its privatisation, as reported in the Statesman dated 10th November, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the DVB's performance report has been scrutinized by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details of other guidelines issued to the DVB/Delhi Government to face power crisis in the capital?

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) is under the administrative control of the Government of NCT of Delhi and supply and distribution of power in Delhi is the function of DVB/Government of NCT of Delhi.

However, in view of the strategic importance of the National Capital, power supply in Delhi is also reviewed by the Union Government from time to time. The Union Minister of Power held a meeting with Chief Minister, NCT of Delhi on 09th November, 1999 and 10th December, 1999 to review the likely power supply position in Delhi during the coming summer of 2000. Measures to improve availability of power in Delhi and related issues were discussed, which included, new generation capacity addition programme, strengthening of transmission system, power sector reforms in Delhi including privatisation of the distribution, reduction in T&D losses, renovation and modernisation of existing units including Badarpur Thermal Power Station, timely payments of power purchased by DVB, clearance of outstanding amounts, installation of capacitors for improving voltage profile and expeditious improvement of distribution service and system, as well as, privatisation of distribution system.

Resources for Power Generation in Himachal Pradesh

1474. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are large resources for generation of Power in Himachal Pradesh which remain untapped; and

(b) whether lack of coordination among various States, particularly Northern States like Haryana and Punjab, are the detrimental factors for non-utilisation of the above resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Yes, Sir. Out of re-assessed hydro-electric potential of major/medium projects of Himachal Pradesh at 11,647 MW, only 3,139.49 MW (about 27% of the assessed potential) capacity have been developed or under execution and cleared by Central Electricity Authority and balance about 73% is still to be tapped.